

## THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC

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after they had promised to make no more mistakes of the sort.

This year's Missouri University eleven is probably weaker than in former years because of the faculty's insistence upon nonprofessionalism. There has been trouble over the matter, but the faculty has stood firm. Hereafter the public may be assured of a representative team from the State school. It is an improvement all around.

## ANOTHER VIEWPOINT.

Mr. Robert E. McMath, former president of the Board of Public Improvements and thoroughly posted as to the needs of St. Louis, has taken no unexpected action when he announces his friendship for the Charter amendments. His services on the board, which he brought into daily contact with the problems dealing with sewer and street reconstruction, make him entirely competent to pass a favorable judgment upon the proposed changes.

At present the Board of Public Improvements is handicapped in its work both by a recognition of the injustice which the Charter imposes on the taxpayer and by the restrictions of the Charter. The uniform high character of the board has saved the property owner money at the expense of the city's general appearance.

No member of the board has been anxious to order cross streets paved when he knew that the owners of the corner lots would have to pay immediately for the improvements on a front-foot basis. Often this meant practical confiscation of property. In the district swept by the tornado even the construction of streets in the middle of a block often worked hardship on the property owners. It was natural that the Board of Public Improvements was averse to introducing ordinances providing for sewer and street improvements under such conditions.

That difficulty is practically removed in the amendments by a lowering of the penalty rate on special tax bills from 15 to 8 per cent. No man able to own property will be forced to encumber himself in order to pay for improvements. Instead of paying tax bills immediately upon presentation by the contractor, he will have from three to seven years in which to settle the obligation. On deferred payments, the interest rate is only 6 per cent.

In the past the Board of Public Improvements has often been hindered in its work by the holding up of bills in either the Council or the House of Delegates. Especially is this practice common when a Combine exists in either body. The board has no means of finding what will be the final disposition of bills through the pigeonholing methods of cliques.

After the adoption of the amendments every bill introduced from the Board of Public Improvements will either be accepted or rejected within forty days. At the expiration of that time action of some sort will have to be taken. In other words the board will know just what to depend upon.

So it is perfectly in harmony with his experience in the board that former President McMath should be so heartily in favor of the amendments. He knows that they will relieve the property owner from a burden that is sometimes irksome, and will save the Board of Public Improvements from embarrassing positions made necessary by the present restrictions of the organic law.

## SPURIOUS.

There seems to be no limit to which the anonymous enemies of the Charter amendments will not go in their efforts to create a false impression regarding the questions to be voted upon next Tuesday. Fighting in the dark, they are compelled to use methods that are despised of all men.

It is natural and right that the secretary of the Workmen's Protective League of Missouri takes umbrage at the misuse of envelopes bearing the name of the organization in order to make voters believe that the league is fighting the proposed changes. In a statement on the subject he correctly brands such efforts as an outrage.

Yet that is the character of the fight that is being made on the amendments. For the most part the statements in such circulars are a fabric of misstatements from beginning to end. Persons are misquoted and the amendments misconstrued. As the Republic has repeatedly urged, any man who has enough sense to secure a copy and read at first hand the exact words of the provisions which St. Louis will either accept or reject next Tuesday.

## GOTHENBURG SYSTEM.

No one has suggested that wide-open saloons tend to decrease the criminal records of the courts. On the contrary, St. Louis has had an example of what the early closing of dramshops can accomplish. The police officials state that since the regulation went into effect many forms of crime have been reduced as much as one-half or three-fourths in number.

In connection with this assertion, a short review of the Gothenburg system in Sweden, by William E. Curtis of the Chicago Record-Herald, is of interest. In the five years preceding the adoption of the system in that country the average number of arrests was 13,222 to 1,000 inhabitants, while in the past five years the number has fallen to 6,31 per 1,000.

The amount of liquor consumed has decreased from forty-five quarts per capita in 1850 to eight quarts in 1898. How has this been accomplished? The beginning was in 1865 when the Town Council of Gothenburg delegated to a company of twenty prominent citizens a monopoly of the liquor traffic. They were to furnish the capital. All profits over 60 per cent were to be turned into the public treasury. The management, fortunately for the success of the scheme, has been prudent and skillful.

The sale of liquor in the fourteen agencies of Gothenburg, a city of 113,000 population, is stopped at 6 o'clock on Saturdays and days preceding holidays. No liquor is sold on Sunday. On other days the agencies are open from 8 in the morning until 8 at night in summer and 7 o'clock in the winter. Minors and women are barred. Only one drink can be sold to a person. If the bartender thinks that the customer is in danger of becoming drunk or is already intoxicated, he may refuse to sell and the would-be buyer has no recourse.

Quarts and pints may be sold, but the customer must consume this liquor at the premises. The agencies are very

plain, have no ornaments, no music, newspapers, mirrors, pictures or seats. Loading and gossiping are prohibited. All sales are for cash. Liquors are guaranteed to be pure. Money borrowed to buy liquor cannot be recovered. The attendants are servants of the State, sworn to obey the statutes.

This system has been adopted in eighty-three out of ninety-two municipalities in Sweden. As the organic law of Sweden permits local option by the votes of the men and taxpaying women, the other nine municipalities are either without liquor or license private dealers. Four Provinces are entirely without saloons. The sale of liquor is generally prohibited in the country districts.

Beer is the common drink of the people and can be obtained anywhere. In the last fifty years the amount consumed has increased from 300,000 hectoliters to 1,000,000, while the population has increased only one-fourth. Yet everywhere there is gain of sobriety and a decrease of crime.

## TAKING CHANCES.

New York is rejoicing over the settlement that has been made with the heirs of the late Jacob S. Rogers whereby the Metropolitan Museum will receive the \$60,000 which he left by his will to that great institution. According to the attorneys in the case, the contestants compromised on the payment of about \$250,000—a comparatively insignificant sum when the delay that might have been caused by litigation is considered.

And this calls up the old question of bequests to public objects. Why is it that rich men so often give their property to these charitable enterprises only when they can make no further use of the surplus income? In the case of Millionaire Rogers it is said that previous to his death he was not known as a public-spirited man, yet he must have been in intent or he could not have made such a magnificent gift to the Metropolitan Museum.

Christian Brothers' College in this city recently lost a bequest of \$100,000 made by Mr. Benoist of Kansas City through a successful will contest. It is a comparatively easy thing to convince a jury that undue influence has been used to induce a gift for charitable objects. Even the great Tilden properties were turned from the owner's purposes by a litigation that reflected on the ability of the jurist.

Is it not far better to do as have some of the rich men and women of St. Louis? Washington University has been placed on its feet for decades to come through the living generosity of a Cupples, a Brookings and others. The properties given to the university are still productive, so that nothing in values has been lost by their early donation to the school. It is only by the liberality of the living that the magnificent Washington University buildings are being completed in time for their occupation by the educational exhibit of the World's Fair.

Andrew Carnegie's principle of giving is coming more and more into vogue. It might almost be said that it is not only a crime for a man to die rich, but to repeat Fouché's famous remark, "It is worse—it is a blunder." The machinery of the courts is too cumbersome, injuries are too risky and relatives are too inconsiderate for benevolent men to take the chances of bequests being diverted to unexpected uses.

As a cause of street car accidents muddy streets are beginning to take rank with reckless motorists. The public will be entirely blameless when main-traveled cross streets are paved.

German economists have figured that the Kaiser should drop the tariff war. That was a foregone conclusion. Wars of commercial restriction are necessarily disastrous to both sides.

No one will be punished for stealing the body of Gam Lee. This is an unnecessary disgrace which St. Louis should not suffer. Crime must be punished or it will flourish.

Excise Commissioner Seibert has full power to enforce the early-closing regulation. With the aid of the police he can put a stop to the practice of establishing clubs as a subterfuge.

Efforts are being made to consolidate the Hebrew charities of St. Louis. This is putting them on a business basis; something that appeals to every donor of funds.

Organized labor is not to be bunked into opposing the Charter amendments by misleading circulars bearing bogus union labels and unauthorized stamps.

All reports seem to indicate that Chicago railroad assessments are made up on a basis of 3 per cent. In Missouri they are nearly twelve times as much.

It has been proved that male meat is a Chicago staple. The idea of using swine for street cleaners in that city does not seem so much out of place.

Grading on the World's Fair site will begin Monday. Four months from now the public will be paying admissions to see the progress on the buildings.

Every visitor duly enlightened as to the plan and scope of the World's Fair becomes at once a self-appointed advertiser and boomer of the Fair.

Opposition to the Charter amendments is voiced in secret. This is a sure sign that the amendments promise good to the entire community.

Trust haters need not think that the forthcoming combination of canning companies in Iowa and Nebraska includes beer canning.

Whoever your gaze falls upon a loyal citizen of St. Louis you are looking at a man who intends to vote for the Charter amendments.

Now that the World's Fair has entered its constructive period the hammer of the knocker will be silenced by that of the builder.

Football players are good enough on the side, but for the real "popular favorite" business the polo player is in the saddle.

When Miss Helen Gould consents to grace the Board of Lady Managers her selection will have been made unanimously.

Tuesday, October 22, should be the adoption of the Charter amendments to become a red-letter day in local history.

## LETTERS FROM A SELF-MADE MERCHANT TO HIS SON.

From John Graham, in Chicago, to his son Pierrepont, at Harvard. Reprinted from the Saturday Evening Post of Philadelphia. These letters are covered by copyright.

THE "LETTERS OF A SELF-MADE MERCHANT" IN THE SATURDAY EVENING POST HAVE ATTRACTED WIDE FAVOR ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR BROAD AND BUSINESS AND SOCIAL LIFE, SOUND SENSE AND CLEAR STYLE. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE SATURDAY EVENING POST THE REPUBLIC IS ENABLED TO REPRODUCE THESE ARTICLES.

June 1, 188—Dear Pierrepont: No, I can't say that I think anything of your post-graduate course here. You're not going to do a post-graduate course, but you're going to take a post-graduate course in the place to take a post-graduate course in that calling is in the packing-house. Some men learn all they know from books; from life; both kinds are narrow. The first are all theory; the second are all practice. It is the fellow who knows enough about practice to test his theories for blow holes that gives the world a shove ahead, and finds a fair margin of profit in shoving it.

There's a chance for everything you have learned from Latin to poetry, in the packing business, though we don't use much poetry except in our street-car ads, and about the only time our products are given Latin names is when the State Board of Health examines them. But I think you'll find it safe to go sport a little on the frills of education; if you want them bad enough you'll find a way to pick them up later, about business hours.

The main thing is to get a start along right lines, and that is what I want you to do. I didn't expect you to carry off all the education in eight—I knew you'd leave a little for the next fellow. But I wanted you to form good mental habits, just as I want you to have clean, straight physical ones. Because I was run through a threshing machine when I was a boy, and didn't begin to get the straw out of my hair until I was past 30. I haven't any sympathy with a lot of these old fellows who go around bragging of their ignorance and saying that boys don't need to know anything except addition and the "best policy" brand of honesty.

We started in a mighty different world, and we were all ignorant together. The Lord led us on the ground floor, gave us corner lots, and then started in to improve the adjacent property. We didn't have to know fractions to figure out our profits, now a merchant wants to know how to use the whole circle of the earth. I used to hang by about twice a week to find out if anything had turned up.

Finally, after about a month of this, he wore me down so that I stopped him one day as he was passing me on the street. I thought I'd find out if he really was so red-hot to work as he pretended to be. He said, "I felt that perhaps I hadn't treated the boys just right, as I had delivered quite a jag of that wheat to his father myself."

"Hello, Jim," I called. "Do you still want that job?"

"Yes, sir," he answered, quick as lightning.

"Well, I tell you how it is, Jim," I said, looking up at him. "You were one of those husky, lazy-moving six-footers—I don't see any chance in the office, but I understand they can use another good, strong man in one of the loading gangs."

I thought that would settle Jim and let me out for it's no joke lugging beer, or rolling barrels and tierces a hundred yards or so at a time. But Jim came right back at me with, "Done, Whore! I report to you!" That sorry way of answering, as if he were closing a bet, made me surer than ever that he was not cut out for a butcher. But I told him, and off he started hot-foot to find his foreman. I sent word by another route to see that he got plenty to do. I forgot all about Jim until about three months later, when his name was handed up to me for a new place and a raise in pay. It seemed that he had sort of abolished his job. He had been rolling barrels a while, and the sport had grown down one of his shoulders a couple of inches farther than the other, he got to scheming around for a way to make the work easier, and he had done it. He had got a new machine, a road system, by which the barrels could be swung out of the storehouse and run right along into the cars, and two or three men do the work of a man. It was done as I thought. Jim was lazy, but he had put the house in the way of saving so much money that I couldn't fire him. So I raised his salary, and made him an assistant foreman and checker. Jim kept at this for three or four months, until his feet began to hurt him, I guess, and then he was out of a job again. It seems he had heard something about a new machine for registering the men, that did away with most of the time-keepers except the fellows who watched the machines, and he kept after the superintendent until he got him to put them in. Of course, he claimed a raise again for effecting such a saving, and we just had to allow it.

I was beginning to take an interest in Jim, so I brought him up into the office and set him to copying circular letters. We used to send out a raft of them to the trade. That was just before the general adoption of typewriters, when they were in the experimental stage. But Jim hadn't been in the office long before he had the writers' cramp, and began nodding around again. I told him I knew he was sickening the agents for the new typewriter machine on me, and he kept them nodding away until they had made me give them a trial. Then it was all up with Jim's job again. I raised his salary without his asking for it this time and put him out on the road to introduce a new product that we were making—beef extract.

Jim made two trips without selling enough to keep them working overtime at the factory, and then he came into my office with a long story about how we were doing it all wrong. Said we ought to go for the consumer by advertising, and make the trade come to us, instead of chasing it up.

That was so like Jim that I just laughed at first, but then I thought of the fact that I knew he was sickening the agents for the new typewriter machine on me, and he kept them nodding away until they had made me give them a trial. Then it was all up with Jim's job again. I raised his salary without his asking for it this time and put him out on the road to introduce a new product that we were making—beef extract.

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